

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

JCE 1877

17, 2006

OL. 130

No. 32

AUG 22 2006



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

PERSECUTION'S TOLL —

This church in Ambon on the Molucca Islands in Indonesia is one of many that have been destroyed in Indonesia as Islamic jihad fighters wage war against the Christian population in many parts of that Muslim-majority country. Christian churches are continually being closed down or burned to prevent believers from gathering for worship and support. (BP file photo courtesy of International Christian Concern)

Indonesian Christians facing execution

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — A last-minute stay of execution was issued by Indonesian authorities for three ethnic Christians sentenced to death for allegedly inciting Christian-Muslim violence on Indonesia's Sulawesi island in 2000.

The three men, Fabianus Tibo, Marianus Riwu and Dominggus da Silva, were convicted in 2001 for inciting Christian-Muslim violence that led to the killing of some 1,000 people in the Poso port region of Indonesia's Sulawesi island.

The Poso conflict dates back to 1998 and has included attacks initiated by both Muslims and Christians. The turmoil also stirred an influx of Muslim fighters from the paramilitary Laskar Jihad movement, which Time magazine reported as having "launched a campaign against Christian villages in Sulawesi... to sweep all Christians out of the area."

The Associated Press (AP) reported that Thamrin Amal Tomagola, an expert on the Poso conflict, had described the three men as uneducated farmers who had been involved in the Poso violence but were not the ringleaders. Tomagola voiced concern that the government would lose valuable witnesses to the violence by executing the three men, AP reported.

In Washington, Jeff King, president of International Christian Concern (ICC), a



WAY OF JIHAD — Homes in an unidentified Christian village in Indonesia are set aflame by Muslim jihad warriors who frequently attack such locations where Christians congregate, destroying homes and churches and summarily executing many of the men, women, and children who live there. Villagers fortunate enough to survive the brutal attacks are forced to convert to Islam or face execution themselves. (BP file photo courtesy of International Christian Concern)

human rights organization that had rallied against the executions, issued a call for continued efforts in behalf of the three men.

The country's national police chief, Gen. Sutanto, as he is known, announced the stay of

execution minutes before the three men were to face a firing squad just after midnight, AP reported on Aug. 11. The wire service also reported that Gen. Sutanto said the executions will be carried out sometime after Aug. 20. Gen. Sutanto said Sulawesi officials had told him the executions were postponed because they had become too busy with preparations for the celebration of Indonesia's independence on Aug. 17, according to the AP.

"We are expecting the Indonesian government to put off the execution for a week, hoping that the national and worldwide furor... will die down, and then they will attempt to carry out the execution," King said in a news release.

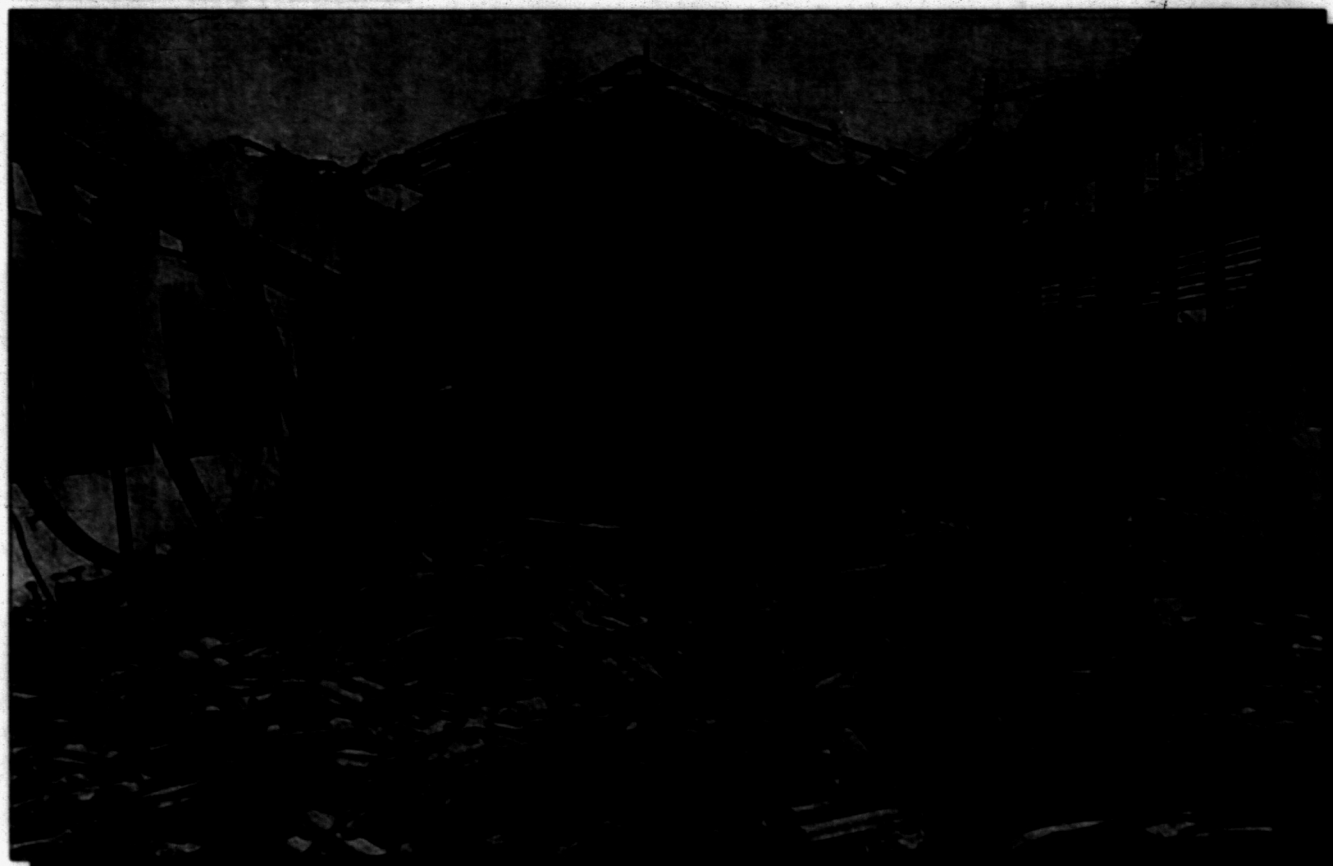
King recounted that the Indonesian government has scheduled the execution of three Muslim militants on Aug. 22 for their convictions in the 2002 bombings that killed 202 people in nation's Bali resort area. The government "views the executions of these Christians as a way to balance justice — very important in Indonesian society," King said. "Overall concerns

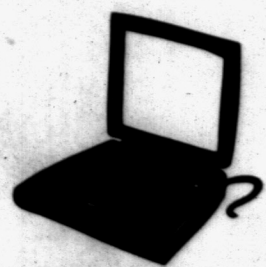
of justice or whether these men are the fall guys for thousands of other guilty individuals is secondary.

"One of the most amazing aspects of this case is that in attacks from 1998 to 2003, there were approximately 10,000 Christians murdered, 1,000 churches burned down and 80,000 homes burned down. In that orgy of violence directed against Christians, the only individuals the government chose to convict were these three [Christian] men. This is quite alarming especially considering all the indications that local and regional government officials aided and abetted these attacks against Christians."

ICC continued to urge that appeals be e-mailed, phoned, faxed or delivered to Indonesia's embassies in Washington as well as Ottawa, Canada, and London.

The Indonesian government can be contacted at: Indonesian Embassy US, 2020 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Telephone: (202) 775-5200. Fax: (202) 775-5365. E-mail: <http://www.embassyofindonesia.org/> and click "Contact Us" in the upper right corner.





EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Matt Broome
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Mack Amis, McComb
James Beasley, Crystal Springs
Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis
Rick Henson, Brandon
Beverly Pyron, Natchez
Billy Watkins, Madison
Dana Richardson, secretary

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 130 • NUMBER 32
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

Dysfunctional parents, criminal grandmothers

Imagine for a moment that a person you've never met secretly took your 13-year-old daughter out of state for an elective surgery without your consent. Imagine further that when your daughter began hemorrhaging uncontrollably on the return trip, this total stranger shoved her out of the car and left her to die on the side of the road. Lastly, imagine yourself sitting by the telephone when the call comes, "This is the state police. Do you have a daughter named ..."

As the pro-abortion lobby and its toadies in the U.S. Congress successfully bottle up yet another attempt to prohibit such a scenario with the Child Custody Protection Act, we would do well to remember the real-life nightmare in which Joyce Fairley found herself when her daughter Crystal vanished. Fairley has appeared before two congressional committees to tell her story, a twisted tale devoid of logic but appropriate in a sick way for the time in which we live. Here's the short version.

Unknown to Crystal's parents, a woman named Rosa Hartford took young Crystal from her Pennsylvania home one day and headed by car to nearby New York. Barely 13 years old, Crystal was pregnant with the child of Hartford's 18-year-old stepson Michael Kilmer.

Crystal's home state of Pennsylvania has a parental consent law, whereby minors must obtain permission from a parent or judge before an abortion can be performed. The State of New York has no such law, so any minor can get an abortion with no questions asked.

That was the situation in which Crystal unwittingly found herself. Pressured by



her predatory boyfriend and his calculating step mother, Crystal agreed to secretly accompany Hartford to New York for an abortion. Apparently, Kilmer didn't have the courage to go along.

However, the plan went terribly wrong on the way back to Pennsylvania after the abortion. As is the case with many abortions, Crystal suddenly began to bleed from the botched "procedure." As the bleeding got worse, Hartford panicked and forced Crystal out of the car about 30 miles from home. Weakened by the blood loss and crippled by severe pain, Crystal was left to await her fate on the dirty, lonely roadside.

Thankfully, Crystal was discovered in time to save her life and be reunited with her mother. Kilmer was convicted of statutory rape. Hartford was found guilty of interference with the custody of a minor but saw her conviction overturned. After all, she had done nothing wrong under the law.

Fast forward to present day, where pro-life Congressmen and Senators are making yet another valiant attempt to outlaw such outrages. Yet the Center for Reproductive

Rights in Washington, D.C., refers to the current legislation as the "Teen Endangerment Act" and declares, "It forces young women to rely on potentially abusive and dysfunctional parents ... It criminalizes grandmothers and other compassionate adults who are trying to keep teens safe."

A cadre of pro-abortion senators (mostly, but not all, Democrats) agree with that logic and are attempting to kill the legislation by refusing to allow it to go to conference committee to iron out small

differences in the versions passed by the House of Representatives last year and the Senate this year. They believe they can "run out of the clock" on this session of Congress and prevent the legislation from reaching the President's desk.

This is indeed an interesting day to be alive. A minor child can be suspended for bringing an aspirin to school without parents' permission, but that same child can travel hundreds of miles under the care of a total stranger for a dangerous medical procedure without parents' permission or even knowledge. On a purely common sense level, how can that be?

Joyce Fairley — and many other parents whose stories didn't end as well as hers — really want to know.

Editor's note: Senators Thad Cochran (R) and Trent Lott (R) voted in favor of the legislation. In the House vote, Congressmen Chip Pickering (R) and Gene Taylor (D) voted in favor of the legislation. Congressman Bennie Thompson (D) voted against the legislation, while Congressman Roger Wicker (R) is listed as not voting.

Chuck Kelley of New Orleans Seminary states, "Southern Baptists are a harvest-oriented denomination living in an unseeded generation."

What if 16 million Baptists consistently and faithfully engaged everyone they encountered with a positive touch in the name of Jesus Christ? The multiplied effect would be powerful!

Justin came to a small church in Georgia only a couple of months ago, invited by a young lady in the youth group. As with every visitor, Justin was given a warm welcome by church members. From his very first visit, the young people of the church made sure he sat with them, front and center, in the worship service. As the weeks passed, Justin became involved in Sunday School.

Recently, members of the youth group invited Justin to go with them to SuperWow, a student conference sponsored by the Georgia Baptist Convention. Of the 12 guests invited, at least three of them received Christ. One of these was Justin.

After SuperWow, Justin publicly professed his faith in Jesus. Before he was baptized, Justin spoke to the church. In his short testimony he shared a key event leading to his conversion that none of the congregation had heard before. He told of a friend

GUEST OPINION:



Many seeds bring bountiful harvest

By Toby Frost
North American Mission Bd.

from school who had been witnessing to him. One day Justin was at his friend's house. Finding his friend's journal, curiosity got the best of Justin and he began to read. Tears filled Justin's eyes as he told the congregation of reading the following journal entry: "Lord, please do something special for Justin today and accomplish something magnificent in his life."

Church members were touched. The Lord moved. The beginnings of revival ensued. Simple stories like this probably could be repeated in church after church throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. Upon closer analysis, though, this simple account illustrates a powerful truth — the scriptural principle of seed-sowing.

Spiritual seed-sowing recognizes the fact that, usually, no

single event is used by God for an unbeliever coming to faith. In Justin's life a number of Christians provided a multitude of "touches" with the Gospel, unknowingly working together under the organization of the Holy Spirit to bring Justin to the Savior.

A friend invited Justin to church. The Gospel was preached to him. A friendly church welcomed him. A youth group enfolded him. A Sunday School teacher taught him. SuperWow speaker Thomas Young related the truths of Scripture him. Christian contemporary rock group Big Daddy Weave worshiped with him. The Skit Guys dramatized the Good News before him. The minister of students and singles piqued his curiosity and answered his questions. His unnamed friend

prayed for him and journaled his name before God.

The Apostle Paul in the Bible refers to this process of seed-sowing when he states, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." I have a dream that every person in North America will hear about Christ through the life and verbal witness of a Southern Baptist.

Here are a few practical hints. Seed-sowing must be:

- Positive
- Consistent.
- Numerous.
- Intentional
- Creative
- Service-Oriented.
- Christ-Centered.
- Sacrificial.
- Natural.
- Filled with prayer.

Seed-sowing is a spiritual voyage. Prayer is necessary as you set sail with a sense of adventure and abandon. Perhaps we could pray a version of the prayer Justin's friend prayed, "Lord, please do something special in my life today, and accomplish something magnificent for others through me."

Frost is the director of strategic evangelism coordination at the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

Bowlin: Evangelists are crucial ministry

Mississippi Baptist evangelist Gary Bowlin of Summit was elected President of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists (COSBE) at the group's annual meeting in June in Greensboro, N.C. Rick Henson, pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon, interviewed Bowlin after a recent mission trip to Romania.

What is COSBE and what will be your role?

COSBE is the national organization of full-time Southern Baptist vocational evangelists. COSBE promotes evangelism and those called to that special ministry. COSBE works in cooperation with the North American Mission Board, and is governed by its own bylaws, which determine member eligibility and policy. More information about COSBE is available online at www.sbcevangelist.org.

Part of my duties as President is to promote and encourage evangelism and the use of biblically gifted evangelists in churches, crusades, and other evangelistic efforts. Statistics show that churches that use God-called evangelists baptize many more than those who do not. This year as President I will be the voice for COSBE. The other officers and I are responsible for the convention-wide Sunday morning worship service preceding the Southern Baptist Convention next summer in San Antonio, Texas. Already committed are evangelists Phil Glisson from Memphis, Sammy Tippit from San Antonio, and Randal Helms from Woodstock, Georgia.

Why are fewer churches holding revivals today?

The church in America has never had a greater need for



NEW CHURCH DEDICATED — Gary Bowlin and his wife Norma pause at the front door of the new church building in Radila, Romania, that was dedicated on June 25. Bowlin, an evangelist from Summit and president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, preached the dedication message that day. (Special to The Baptist Record)

revival and evangelism than today. Many pastors lament the spiritual poverty of their churches and lack of baptisms, but do not hold revivals or use those called to that ministry. Despite former Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch's campaign for evangelism over the last two years, SBC baptisms declined dramatically. The baptism statistics probably would have been worse without this emphasis.

In our attempt to adapt to cultural changes, we decided that revivals no longer work — but we tried to fix what is not broken. We blame revivals' lack of success on cultural changes, when the real problem is lack of preparation and prayer. I have preached revivals and, when I arrived, saw my preparation packet unopened on the pastor's

desk. When you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time. In over twenty-six years in full-time evangelism, I have observed that every church that prepares adequately for revival has excellent results. It still takes hard work.

A church should hold two revivals a year, one for church renewal and one for outreach. In addition, Harvest Days can really boost the church's evangelistic efforts.

The Gospel still works and revivals still work! The Gospel cuts across every cultural, political, and social barrier. Keith Fordham, an evangelist friend of mine, recently led an old-fashioned revival in an inner-city multilingual church that had not baptized anyone in twenty years. As a result, that church baptized ten with seven others awaiting baptism. This was due to prayer, preparation, and commitment.

This revival was the first in a pilot project of the North American Mission Board and COSBE to place vocational evangelists with churches that have low or no baptisms. I believe God will bless this project.

In addition to revivals, crusades, and one-day harvest days you are heavily involved in international mission efforts. Where are you working?

We work primarily in Romania, having led two teams there this year. We also traveled to Japan and Peru this year. In May of 2007 we will lead an evangelistic team to Peru, and will lead two more teams to Romania in July and October of 2007. We have worked in Romania for over ten years. My wife Norma and I lead medical teams to provide much-needed medical care. We also take Vacation Bible School workers, soul-winners, women's conference leaders, singers, preachers, and others. We just returned from Romania with a group of forty-three, and the Lord blessed with 1,024 Romanians praying to receive Christ. On this trip we also dedicated a new church building in the village of Radila, Romania. We have been able to work with a local church in Romania to start three new churches, and construct and dedicate three new church buildings to the Lord.

Usually twelve to fifteen Southern Baptist churches are represented on our mission trips. God has blessed us with six Southern Baptist churches that consistently assist and participate in this work. Our trips to Romania are in cooperation with, and with the approval of, the International Mission Board (IMB). We seek to plug into the IMB mission strategy for Romania, and other countries where we lead teams.

Editor's note: To contact Gary Bowlin World Ministries, visit www.garybowlin.com. For more information on COSBE, visit <http://www.sbcevangelist.org>. For more information on the Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists, visit <http://combeonline.kingdomgrowth.com/>.

Homosexual marriage touted

SAN FRANCISCO (BP) — The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) held its annual dinner July 29 in San Francisco, and California Democratic gubernatorial candidate Phil Angelides took the opportunity once again to pledge his support for homosexual marriage legalization if he is elected. HRC is the nation's largest homosexual activist group. Angelides charged that California Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and President Bush were "fanning the flames of discrimination against gays and lesbians in this country," the San Francisco Bay Times reported. Schwarzenegger last year vetoed a bill that would have legalized homosexual marriage. "I'm sick and tired of it, and I'm ready to fight, stand my ground, and make California a leader again in civil rights for this nation to admire," Angelides said, pledging to sign a homosexual marriage bill if he wins, the Times reported. U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wis.) — one of two senators to publicly support homosexual marriage — was the keynote speaker. "Over the next 100 days here in California, we are going to wage a campaign of principle and compassion and commitment, and come Nov. 7 we're going to defeat Arnold Schwarzenegger and make California a model for social justice and progress again in America," Feingold said. Feingold pointed to the defeat of a constitutional marriage amendment in the Senate earlier this year. "[W]e are winning this battle," Feingold said. "I think we can put a stake in the heart of this thing. I am optimistic about the future of issues affecting the GLBT [gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender] community." For more information about the national debate over homosexual marriage, visit www.bpnews.net/samesexmarriage.

Looking back

10 years ago

The Mississippi State Department of Mental Health enters into a \$25,000 option to purchase the Clarke College property in Newton, according to Larry Otis, chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Convention special committee formed to dispose of the defunct Baptist junior college.

20 years ago

Earl Kelly of Jackson, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and industrialist Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, are invited to China to meet with religious leaders there.

60 years ago

More than 4,000 people pack the Jackson City Auditorium during a Youth for Christ rally to hear R.G. Lee, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, deliver his famous Pay Day Someday sermon for the 265th time.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

**THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

AUGUST 17, 2006

VOL. 130

No. 32



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

IT IS ME AND I AM NOT

From all the calls, e-mails, letters, and personal conversations I have received, I feel compelled to write this article that I have entitled, It Is Me and I Am Not. Several weeks ago the picture that accompanied the Directions article was changed and I began to get inquiries as to who the person was that The Baptist Record had put in Futral's article. Well the simple answer is, it is me. For those scrutinizing grammarians who are out there, I know it is I, but for many colloquial Mississippians it really is me.

One person was upset because they assumed that someone was playing a prank and put another person's picture in my place. They had considered writing a letter to the editor or calling and complaining about what had been done. Another caller told me that she and her sister had gotten into a discussion about my new look. One of them believed that it was not a picture of me and the other one believed that it was. To try to answer the question, this lady had gone to an old copy of The Baptist Record and had actually taken her scissors, cut my hair off the old picture, and put it on the new picture to see if it was me. She still was not sure if it was or not. Another person told me about the big discussion that took place when The Baptist Record arrived at the beauty shop.

If a picture is supposed to be worth a thousand words, apparently inflation has set in and this one has created several times over that amount, but again to answer the question that has come from every form of communication known to man, it is me. You have heard of the face that launched a thousand ships. I suppose this is a face that encouraged a thousand cantaloupes. A few things have been of real interest to me about all the discussions, calls, and conversations about the picture.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

One thing that has been interesting to me is all of the buzz that has taken place. Over the past several years I have written almost 400 articles for this column. While I have heard from many of you about a number of issues, not one word, sentence, viewpoint, or issue has created near the stir that a changed picture has created.

The other thing of interest and significance brought on by this change is the fact that so many folks across the state and beyond receive and read The Baptist Record. Well maybe not — maybe they receive and look at the pictures in The Baptist Record. At least at some level large groups of folks are interested in the Baptist paper from Mississippi and that is a good thing, but again to answer the question, it is me. It is not Kojak, Yul Brynner, Lex Luthor, Michael Jordan, or Samson. It is Jim Futral. The other half of the title of my article is, "...and I Am Not." This dimension is far more serious and noteworthy. To answer this part of the implied question and so that you will know, I am not in chemotherapy; I am not sick; I have not had surgery; and I have not had radiation. Several weeks ago after I had preached at a meeting, a lady came up to me, thanked me for the message, and then said, "I just wanted you to know that I am going to be praying for you." I thanked her and then she said, "How long have you been taking

chemotherapy?" I was a little shocked and I was trying to compose my thoughts when she asked me a follow-up question. "How is it that you have been able to keep your eyebrows?" Before I could answer the first question, I responded to the second question with a smile and a shrug and said, "It's just a miracle." She seemed to be pleased with the answer and walked off smiling. I hope she was praying for me but at peace, thinking that I was able to keep my eyebrows.

As time has gone on I have run into numerous folks who when they saw me did not know that it was just a new look. They discovered later that I was not in treatment and told me how relieved they were to find out that I was okay and I was not battling great health issues. It has been interesting to hear how when some folks get in a Baptist circle they begin to surmise, assume, speculate, and even declare what is going on with someone when nothing could be further from the truth. Some folks have tried to speculate just from a picture as to what is wrong and what I have been taking. These folks are not even physicians, but it is not an altogether bad thing because some folks would never get any exercise if they were not jumping to conclusions. I am glad to tell you that it is me and I am not.

So let me quickly add that it is a sobering thought for me and maybe for all of us to real-

ize how fragile life is and how challenging life's big problems can be. On a number of occasions when people have cautiously asked if I was taking chemotherapy, I have responded to say no, but you know, if the truth be known, all of us could be weeks away from that experience. Just this week I heard of a child, not two years of age, who had battled and lost the fight with cancer. Only a couple of weeks ago I talked to a man in another state whose grandson in his teen years had died from a malignancy. Only hours before writing this article I visited with a precious saint who had just discovered that cancer had spread to several vital parts of her body. In spite of it she was cheerful, courageous, and trusting the Lord who had provided for her all along her journey.

It is true that God is good all the time and all of the time God is good, but it is also true that oftentimes life has some difficult detours and some really high mountains. I am glad to tell you that I am not sick, I have not been in the hospital, I am not taking chemotherapy, and on and on. The reality is what so many of you have faced and what we all need to clearly understand is that each of us could be just one revealing test at the hospital away from a journey that could test the faith of the finest of the saints — something about which you never, ever thought and had no reason to suspect could be taking place in any of our bodies, and from that point on schedules change, emotions run rampant, needs are intensified, and our need for the Lord may be greater than ever.

Thank you for all of your interest, prayers, and communication. You have blessed me, but now you know: It is Me and I Am Not.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

Warren: Plans for 2007 rally in North Korea will proceed

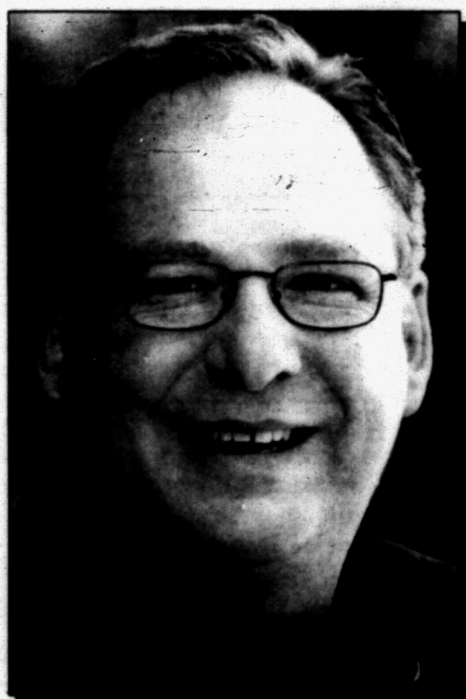
LAKE FOREST, Calif. (BP) — Despite risks of personal safety and the possibility of being used for propaganda purposes by dictator Kim Jong Il, Rick Warren said he will proceed with plans to hold a rally in North Korea next year.

"Of course, people can use you," said Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., and author of The Purpose Driven Life, during an appearance on ABC News' Nightline.

"The issue is: Is it worth it? Is it worth it to go ahead and help people find meaning and hope in Jesus Christ and purpose for their life and eternal salvation? Is that worth it in order to be criticized, misunderstood and even used? In my hands, I said, 'Absolutely.'"

Warren traveled to North Korea in July to meet with the organizers of a rally scheduled for March 2007. ABC's Dan Harris questioned Warren about the wisdom of traveling to a country where Il has mistreated millions and allowed hundreds of thousands of citizens to starve to death.

Harris also asked whether the North



Warren

Korean regime might point to Warren's rally as evidence of religious toleration, although very little real religious freedom exists.

"I called a bunch of advisers, people that I trust, and prayed about it," Warren said. "And [in] the final analysis I thought, 'When somebody goes into a country that has tended to be closed to Christianity or religion, it can't help but provide more of an openness and provide visibility.'"

Warren added that he will cancel the rally if he sees any signs that his speech will be limited or that his visit will

make the lives of North Korean Christians worse, according to ABC News.

Warren conducted the Nightline interview from South Korea, where he met with government, political, and church leaders, according to his blog at rickwarren.com. He planned to conduct training events for pastors and evangelistic events at outdoor stadiums in Seoul and Busan.

After speaking to U.S. troops at a military base near the Demilitarized Zone, his team crossed the border July 17 to meet with church and business leaders in Kaesong. Contrary to previous media reports, the visit to the Democratic People's Republic is not a preaching mission.

"We are going simply to meet with leadership in preparation for a March 2007 speaking engagement," Warren wrote on the blog. "That visit will coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Pyongyang Revival, which began as a men's Bible study in January 1907 and spread like wildfire to all the churches in Pyongyang, then continued to sweep across the peninsula until June. Some have called it the greatest manifestation of the Holy Spirit since the days of the Book of Acts — greater even than the historic revivals in Wales and India."

So. Baptist scholars peer into King Solomon's realm

JERUSALEM (BP) — More than 30 years have passed since a major expedition has attempted to reveal the history of Tel Gezer, the ancient city of King Solomon fame located between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. This summer the biblical site has been re-excavated by a joint expedition of New Orleans Seminary and the Israel Antiquities Authority.

The expedition is led by co-directors Steven M. Ortiz of New Orleans Seminary and Sam Wolff of the Israel Antiquities Authority. The project encompasses several consortium members: Southwestern Seminary, Midwestern Seminary, Marian Eakins Archaeological Museum, Lycoming College, Lancaster Bible College and Grace Seminary.

More than 60 students and staff members participated in the inaugural season this summer from June 4 through July 7. In addition, the excavations drew support from local residents of Kibbutz Gezer and Karmi Yosef.

Some secular archaeologists doubt the reality of many people and places named in the Bible, but the current work at the Tel Gezer location may prove useful in verifying various biblical accounts.

This year's excavations have revealed more than 40 meters of a massive fortification system associated with the six-chambered gate common in the building projects of King Solomon. Solomon's extensive building projects are recorded in the biblical account of his activities throughout his kingdom and at his capital city of Jerusalem (1 Kings 9:15-17).

The Tel Gezer fortification systems were constructed in the typical fortress wall system consisting of two parallel walls with dividing walls interspersed about every five meters. Scholars are not sure of the function of this system. The rooms do not have



SIGNIFICANT FIND — Tel Gezer, focus of a joint archaeological expedition by New Orleans Seminary and the Israel Antiquities Authority, includes the ruins of a six-chambered gate (foreground) constructed by King Solomon. (BP photo)

doorways and therefore served as some type of basement storage system entered from above or were filled with soil and rubble as a less labor-intensive construction.

In addition to this large fortification system, two major destructions tentatively dated to the Egyptian pharaohs of Merneptah and Siamun were exposed. The famous Merneptah Stela (end of the 13th century B.C.), where the name Israel is first mentioned in ancient historical records outside the Bible, mentions a major campaign in ancient Palestine that

included the destruction of Gezer. Siamun (mid-10th century B.C.) is identified by many scholars as the pharaoh who conquered Gezer and gave it as a dowry when his daughter married Solomon (1 Kings 9:15).

While the ancient site of Tel Gezer was extensively excavated by R.A.S. Macalister in the early 1900s and by Hebrew Union College in the 1960s and '70s, many questions still remain concerning the nature of the city during the period of the United Monarchy of the Ancient Israelite Kingdom. The goals of the renewed

excavations are to investigate the major fortification systems on the south edge of the site as well as excavate several cultural horizons in order to better understand the growth and development of the Iron Age city.

While parts of the large fortification system have been exposed by previous excavations, several new discoveries were obtained this season. The first was a major rebuilding of the part of the city near the fortification. Some time in the eighth century B.C. a large pillared building and a second unit consisting of several storage rooms were constructed directly abutting the 10th-century B.C. fortification. The pillared building was six and a half meters by four meters and the second unit of rooms covered an area seven meters in length.

The renewed excavations coincide with the celebration of the July 10 opening of the site by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority as a national park. While most of the preparation was carried out by the Israeli authority, it is part of the excavation project's future goals to assist in the conservation of the site. Thus, participants of the Tel Gezer excavation assisted by clearing the years of overgrown brush that covered the Solomonic and Canaanite Gates.

The Tel Gezer project is a long-term initiative to investigate the growth and development of the ancient city of Gezer. In addition, it is a field school to train the next generation of students. Students participate in an intensive program of archaeological fieldwork with evening lectures and a study program where they travel throughout the various regions of Israel.

The project is open to all students and adult volunteers. Information can be obtained from the project website at www.gezerproject.org.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE for the self employed. Call (800) 541-8196. Provided by Mega Insurance, www.christurner-ins.com.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS, WWW.GULFSHORECONDOS.COM. All size units available. FALL SPECIAL, 2 night weekend \$140, 4 weeknights \$200. Efficiency unit (2 adults 2 kids), good 9/6 thru 10/31, (205) 556-0368 or (205) 556-1524.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970. **MYRTLE BEACH OCEAN FRONT CONDO:** 1 queen bed, sleeper sofa, 2 bunk beds, smoke-free, pools and lazy river. Call (843) 602-0466.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kringlas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, (800) 728-8291.

FULL-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER: First Baptist Church of Eustis, Florida, accepting resumes for full-time minister for the Children's Ministry, babies through 5th grade. Mail resumes to FBC Eustis, P.O. Box 129, Eustis, FL 32727 or email to james_wells@fbcceustis.com.

HEALTH OR MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE TOO EXPENSIVE? Call E.F. Hutton Insurance today... We Can Help! Toll-free (877) 232-0686.

FULL-TIME PASTOR: ASHLEY RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH, CHARLESTON, S.C., www.ashleyriverchurch.org, is seeking a full-time pastor with 5 years experience as a senior pastor and SB seminary training. Resume to: Pastor Search Committee, Ashley River Baptist Church, 1101 Savannah Highway, Charleston, S.C. 29407 or arbc@ashleyriverchurch.org.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, custom church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN OWNED. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

WANTED: PART-TIME ADULT CHOIR MINISTER OF MUSIC. If interested send resume to First Baptist Church, attn: music search committee, P.O. Box 616, Red Bay, AL 35582.

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND YOUTH: FARLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH, a growing SBC in Huntsville, AL, is seeking a full-time Minister of Music and Youth. Send resumes to: Personnel Committee, Farley Community Church, 12302 Bell Road, Huntsville, AL 35803, personnel@farleycc.org.

NORTH DELTA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION'S MINISTRY CENTER needs paper, crayons, notebooks, scissors, rulers, composition books, pencils, glue (dry and liquid) art paper, construction paper, backpacks. To distribute to the very needy in our area. Call (662) 627-3417, ship to 2800 Martin L. King Dr., Clarksdale, MS 38614.

CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE, 3.9 cents interstate, 4.9 cents in state. No monthly service charge. Call (866) 587-8346 or www.lowermy-phonebill.com/haroldtt.

WENGER SEATED RISERS, like new; seats 52 on risers, includes back rail. Contact Brandon Baptist Church (601) 824-1781.

THE GIBSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR DOM. Please send resumes to Search Committee: Bob Dennison, 95 Latham Chapel Road Milan, TN 38358.

QUIET GATLINBURG CABIN RETREAT: 2 bdrm — sleeps 6. Mt View from deck. Full kitchen, level entry, \$95/night. For Information: (251) 666-2175, (c) (251) 689-9982, email: pdw@worldnet.att.net.

LICENSED/ORDAINED SBC MINISTER now available for pulpit supply, bivocational, full-time, or interim pastorate. Call (662) 539-4055.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Qualifications:

- Bachelors Degree (Master's degree desirable)
- Ability to work with constituent groups, internal & external
- Good communication skills, verbal & written
- Ability to plan, organize, and coordinate activities and special events



Mississippi College
A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Send resumé to:

Search Committee
Mississippi College
Box 4005
Clinton, MS 39058

MSAudio LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting
Church, Conference Room, School
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales P.O. Box 1575 Ph 601-923-9947
msaudio@jam.rr.com Clinton, MS 39060 Fax 601-924-2880

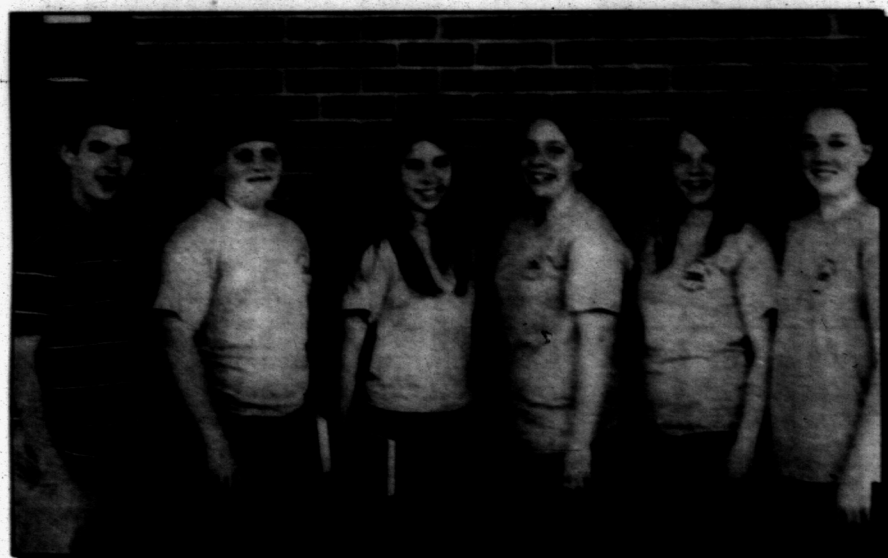
JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Children Bible Drillers, Enterprise Church, Enterprise



4. Deacon Ordination, Bear Creek Church, McCool



1. Youth Bible Drillers, Enterprise Church, Enterprise

1. Enterprise Church, Enterprise, recognizes its Bible drillers. Children shown, from left, are Haley Harper, Haley Mercer, Cassidy Lee, Madison Smith, and Jordan Horn; youth shown, from left, are Ryan Moore, Tyler Burgess, Bethany Mercer, Andi Katherine Kersh, Lindsey Mercer, and Chelsea Jordan.

2. Beulah Church, Decatur, recently presented trophies to its state bible drill winners. Shown from left: Naomi Massey, Karen Lanier, Courtney Lanier, Graham Murphee, Barbara Harrison, Suzanne Chaney, Emily Davis, Hannah May, Delton Harrison and Lacye Harrison.

3. Bucatunna Church, Clarke County, presented the musical, J-Force to the Rescue on March 26.

4. Bear Creek Church, McCool, ordained Jeff Langford as a deacon on July 23, 2006. Shown are Pastor Doug Wise, left, and Jeff Langford.

5. First Church, Lyman, ordained new deacons Curt Newman and Jeff Cunningham on August 6. Shown, from left are Curt and Rhonda Newman, Garland Boyd, pastor, and Jeff and Meredith Cunningham.

6. Weir Church, Choctaw County, recently designated a 5th Sunday offering to go toward Mississippi disaster relief. Shown is pastor Jim Pender, left, presenting a check for \$2800 to Carl Myers, AMD, Pearl River Association.

7. Tory DarDar, lead singer for Broken Vessel was ordained as a minister by Janice Church, Janice, on Sunday, June 25. Shown are left to right: Daniel DarDar, DarDar, Deacons: Pat Patterson, Jay Boykin, Robert Martin, LA Garraway, Earl Wilson and Ben Patrick.



5. Deacon Ordinations, First Church, Lyman



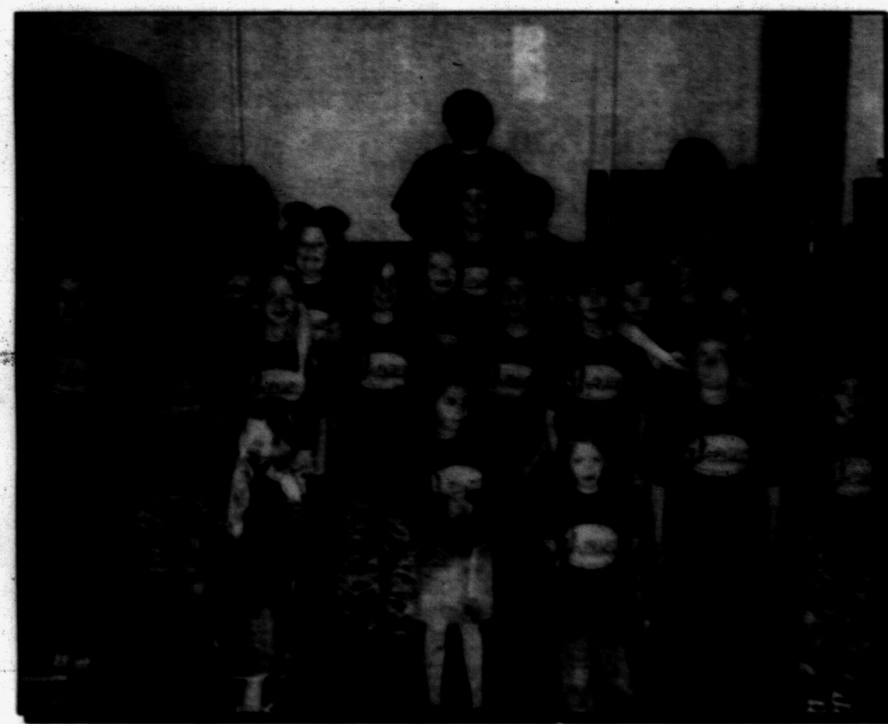
6. Pender and Myers, Weir Church, Choctaw County



7. DarDar ordained to the Ministry, Janice Church, Janice



2. State Bible Drillers, Beulah Church, Decatur



3. J-Force to the Rescue, Bucatunna Church, Clarke County

JUST FOR THE RECORD



8. Thames Speaks at Water Oak Church, Wayne County



9. Stroud and Medina, Lyon Church, Lyon



10. Old Fashioned Day, Leaf River Church, Pineville



11. Youth, Chester Church, Ackerman



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

8. Water Oak Church, Wayne County, recently gave an offering of over \$750 to the Baptist Children's Village. Chrystelle Thames, public relations director, spoke at a worship service. Shown are Ruby Blackwell, Thames, Lisa Davis Jones, and pastor B.R. Blackwell.

9. Carrollton Church, Carrollton, went on a mission trip to the Mississippi Gulf Coast July 2-7. Shown are Linda Perkins and Pam Burns doing cleanup at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

10. Leaf River Church, Pineville, celebrated Old Fashioned Day May 7. Shown are the participants.

11. The youth of Chester Church, Ackerman, participated in a 30-Hour Famine July 28 - 29 to raise money for world hunger. Shown are the participants.

12. Pine Burr Church, Columbia, broke ground for its new 1660-square-foot pastorium, replacing the one which had been destroyed in a flood. Shown are Ray Sones, Buford Cooper, Wilmer Byrd, Louis Polk, Vera Day, pastor John Watts, Larry Bullock, and Velton Lowe.

13. McBee Church, Columbus, presented baptismal certificates to (from left) to Dylan Ricks, Mason Honnoll, DeLayne Partridge, Ryan Shepperd, Bailey Shepperd, and Andrea Shepperd following their baptism July 2. Jim Ray, pastor.

14. Johnston Station Church, Summit, ordained Glenn Bird to the gospel ministry Apr. 22. Shown are pastor Gary Grammar, Bird, and Mike Clark.

15. Red Banks Church, Red Banks, held a children's camp near New Albany, with 30 3rd-6th grade children participating. There were six professions of faith. Shown are the participants.



12. Groundbreaking, Pine Burr Church, Columbia



13. Baptismal Certificates, McBee Church, Columbus



14. Ordination, Johnston Station Church, Summit



15. Children's Camp, Red Banks Church, Red Banks



LifeWay CHURCH BUSES
Buses are available for leasing by
Carpenter
BUS SALES
America's #1 Church Bus Dealer

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

Bibliocipher

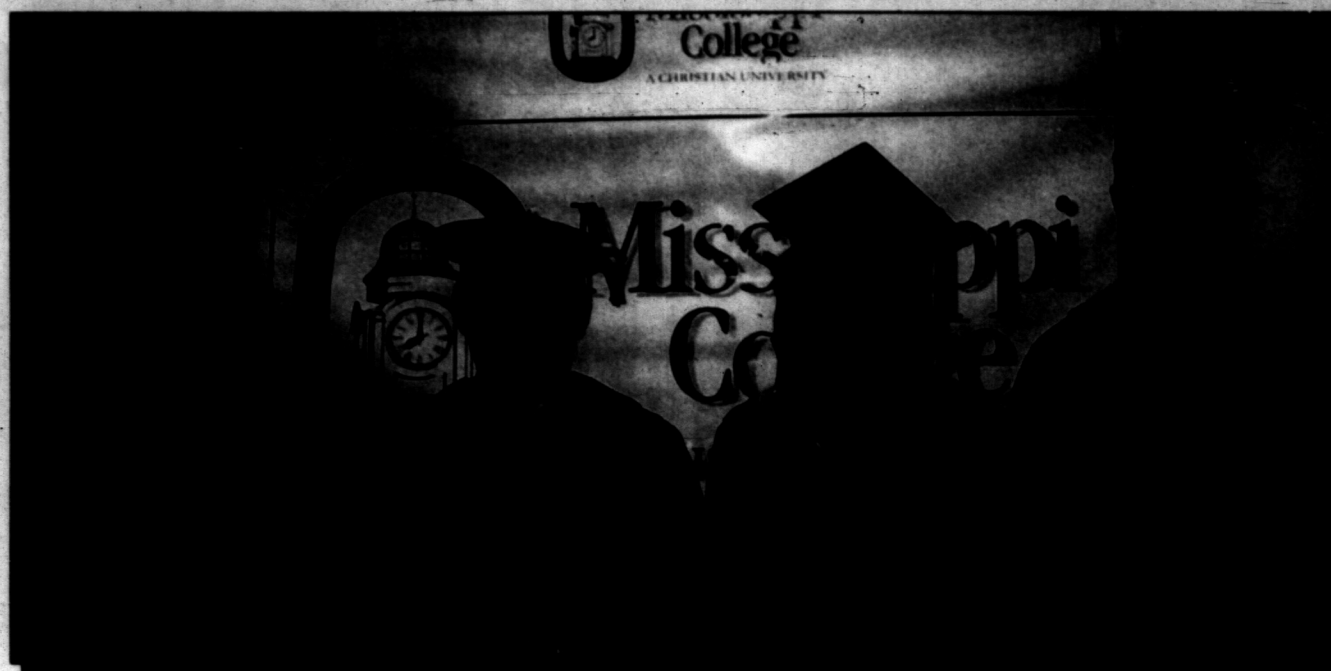
By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2005

KJQ LQPK CUV ANJL
DQQKJ AQDOD TNWHLZ
OLKN JHW, ULC DUHKJ,
MQJNSC KJQ SUWM NB
ZNC, GJHTJ KUFQKJ
UGUV KJQ DHL NB KJQ
GNXSC.

ANJL NLQ:KGQLKV-LHLQ

Clue: G = W
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark One:Eleven.

College News



1. Clark, Royce, Ferris, and Jones, MC

1. Mississippi College held summer graduation ceremonies August 5. President Lee Royce conferred degrees upon approximately 180 graduating students composed of the Law School, Graduate School and Undergraduates. Speaker for the August undergraduate commencement ceremony was Secretary of State, Eric Clark, Brandon. Shown are Commencement Speaker, Secretary of State, Eric Clark, and President Lee Royce; Benediction, Denise Ferriss, Instructor in the School of Nursing; Invocation, Athletic Director, Mike Jones.

2. Mississippi College hosted approximately 8500 young people to Christian-based camps this past summer, including LifeWay sponsored CentriKid, Centrifuge, M-Fuge; Super Summer, drama camps, cheerleading camps, and many sports camps. Three-hundred sixty-four churches from 15 states were represented. Shown are new friends C.J. Lockwood, Monroe, La., and Kathryn Grafe and Madison Simmons, Diamondhead.

3. Mississippi College's Welcome Week celebration, scheduled Aug. 19-26, begins as freshmen move into the dorms. Highlights include an on-campus concert by Chris Rice, Tandem, and Fireworks over London.

Also will be a Business Fair, Mississippi Braves game, picnic on the Quad with MC's President, and progressive dinner with area churches. Rounding out the schedule are club-sponsored socials, campus games, and Intramural sponsored sports. Faculty and Staff will unite for the Opening of the 181st Session during the university's Convocation on Aug. 18. Orientation for all new students is set for Aug. 21.



2. Lockwood, Grafe, and Summons

State Changes

Silver Creek Church, McComb, has called Richard Fortenberry as minister of music. He resides in Magnolia with his wife Paige and their three children. Fortenberry formerly served at Bluff Springs Church.

First Church, Kosciusko, has called Chad Thompson as minister of students. He previously served as minister of students and college at Wynndale Church, Terry.



Thompson

Holly Springs Church, Foxworth, has called Ron H. Jordan, Sr., as pastor. He most recently served as an evangelist and worked with the Youth Challenge program at Camp Shelby.

MS Positions

DANIEL MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON, MISS., is seeking part-time church secretary (20-24 hrs/wk). Mail resume to Daniel Memorial Baptist Church, personnel committee, 3784 Terry Road, Jackson, MS 39212 or e-mail to dmbc@networktel.net.

HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH, BYRAM, MISS., seeking paid nursery workers. Call (601) 372-0132.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HICKORY FLAT, MISS., is looking for a Minister of Music. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, attn: Minister of Music Search Committee, P. O. Box 98, Hickory Flat, MS 38633.

NEEDED: PART-TIME ORGANIST IN METRO JACKSON AREA CHURCH. Call Ronnie at (601) 946-9406.

ORGANIST POSITION AVAILABLE. Two Sunday services. One Wednesday service and choir rehearsal. Contact Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Gulfport at (228) 863-5096.

JOHNS BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A MINISTER OF MUSIC for contemporary-style music program. Please send resume to 426 Pineview Lane, Brandon, MS 39042, or Call (601) 824-9404.

SEEKING POSSIBLE PASTOR CANDIDATES FOR ARTESIA BAPTIST CHURCH IN SOUTHWEST LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI. If you are interested in being considered for this position, please contact Mr. Aubrey Langford, Chair of the Pulpit Committee at (662) 272-5379 or email dalangsr@yahoo.com. Our mailing address is P. O. Box 184, Artesia, MS 39736.

LITTLE GIANT MFG. CO.
TOLL FREE 1-800-231-6035

Revivals & Homecomings

Becker Church, Becker: Homecoming, Aug. 26-27; Sat., musical, Homeward Bound, 6:30 p.m., with special ball park dinner; Sun., Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. with continental breakfast; worship, 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; George Henley, speaker.

First Church, Braxton: Revival, Aug. 20-23; Jerry Mixon, speaker; Marcus Peagler, music.

First Church, Laurel: Revival, Sept. 10-13; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Dean Register, Hattiesburg, speaker; Lew King, Byram, music; Randy Turner, pastor.

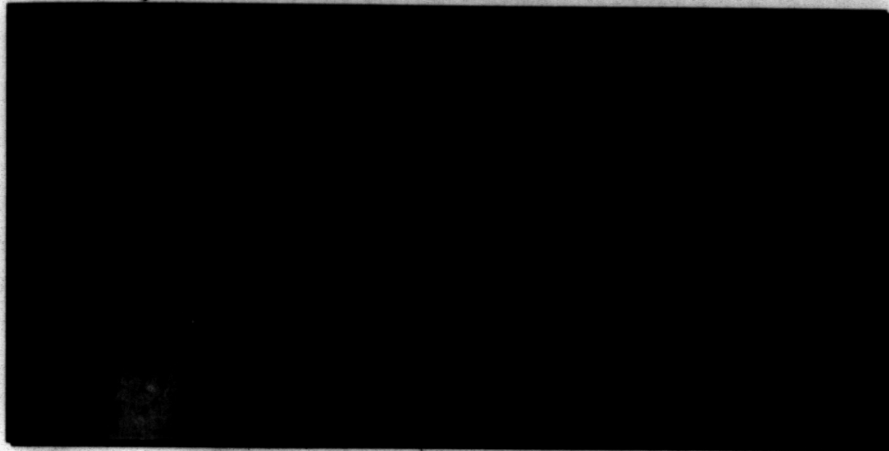
Holly Church, Alcorn: Homecoming and dedication day, Aug. 20; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch, building dedication, fellowship and singing; Harris Counce, speaker. Revival, Aug. 27-30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Chris Aldridge, speaker; Eric Kachur, music; Tony Morrow, pastor.

Moak's Creek Church, Lincoln County: Homecoming, Sept. 3; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing with For Grace.

New Hope Church, Monticello: Revival, Aug. 20-23; Sun., 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Porter, speaker; Tim Morrison, music; Joey Faulk, pastor.

Union Church, Union Church: Revival, Aug. 20-23; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by meal and afternoon service; Mon., 7 p.m.; Tues., 6:30 p.m. special service; Wed., 7 p.m.; John Smith, speaker; Tom and Willa Moak, music; M.R. Bradley, pastor.

Weir Church, Weir: Homecoming, Sept. 10; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on grounds; Jim Pender, pastor.



1. VBS, Arlington Church, Arlington



2. VBS, Providence Church, Jayess



3. VBS, West Shady Grove Church, Webster Association

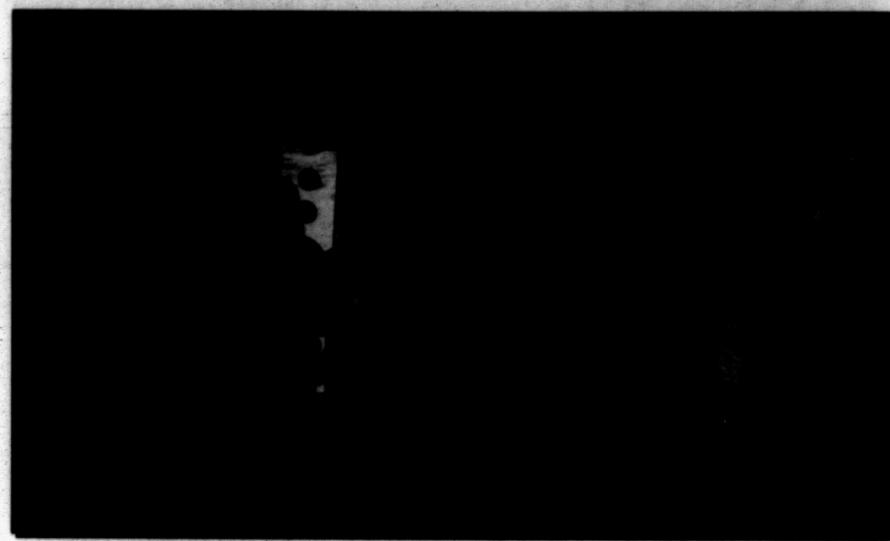
1. **Arlington Church, Beaumont:** VBS, July 10-14; Monday attendance, 63, with an increase in attendance each day; Friday attendance, 94.

2. **Providence Church, Jayess:** Shown are children giving pennies as a missions offering for the Memorial to the Missing at the Baptist Building, Jackson.

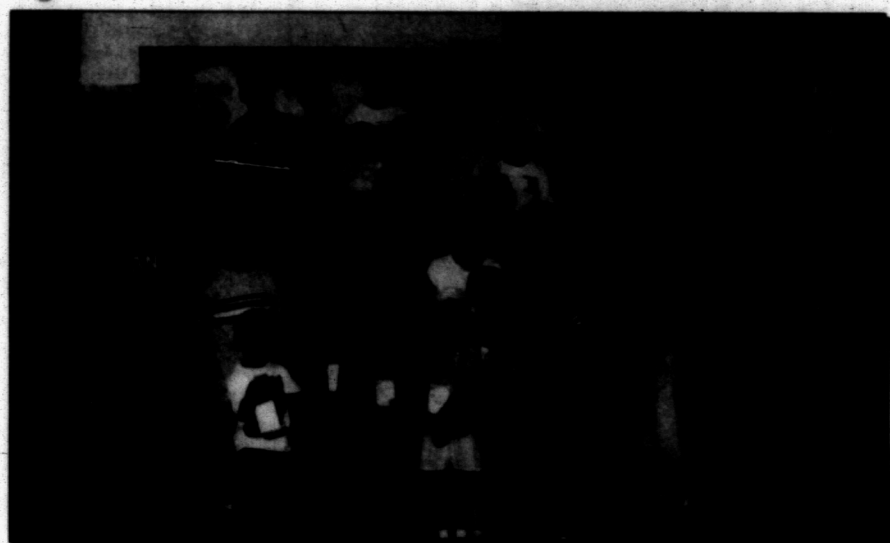
3. **West Shady Grove Church, Eupora:** VBS, led by a mission team of youth and adults from Cairo Church, Ecu; average attendance, 35; Paul Cain, pastor.

4. **Corinth Church, Tallahatchie County:** Total enrollment of 65 children and adults. Shown are some of the participants.

5. **Pleasant Hill Church, Tippah County:** marked a record number of children under the leadership of Cathy Franks and the help of many volunteers. Shown are the participants.



4. VBS, Corinth Church, Tallahatchie County



5. VBS, Pleasant Hill Church, Tippah County

SPEAKUP!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPER SATURDAY CONFERENCES

Saturday, Sept. 16
Petal-Harvey BC, Petal
9a.m.-noon

.....
Each year the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board focuses on one aspect of Flake's Formula for the Future. This year's emphasis is on Evangelism: Be Ready to Speak Up!

Conferences available for all age groups plus general officers and pastor and staff.
No pre-registration. Electives offered:

- **Involving Parents in Preschool Ministry**
- **How to Talk to a Child about Salvation**
- **Care Group Ministry**

- **What Do I Do Now? Using Evangelism Tools**
- **Youth Reaching Youth**
- **Starting New Units Inside and Outside the Box**

Preschool: Jeff Land
Joelton FBC • Joelton, TN

Children: Sue Harmon
SC Baptist Convention • Columbia, SC

Youth: Marilyn Bullman
Sharon FBC • Laurel, MS

Younger Adult: Kimberly Harris
West Cobb • Powder Springs, GA

Older Adult: Bill Hawks
Highland Colony • Ridgeland, MS

General Officer: Kiely Young
MS Baptist Convention Board • Jackson, MS

One Won 1: Mike Aultman
Military • Sumrall

.....
For more information contact the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291 or in Jackson at 601-292-3291 or email cday@mbcb.org.

Join Other Baptists Departing: May 7, 2007

Australia Tour

17-Days from \$3698*

Join other Baptists and see the best of Australia on this comprehensive escorted tour "Down Under." Includes Victoria's capital of Melbourne, Port Philip Bay, Toorak Village, Cook's Cottage, Albury, Canberra, National Gallery of Australia, Australian War Memorial and Museum, Sydney, Botanical Gardens, a Captain Cook Cruise luncheon cruise, Coff's Harbour surrounded by lush bush land (wilderness), The Gold Coast with pristine beaches, whale & dolphin spotting, The Australia Zoo, Brisbane (Queensland's capital) with tropical rainforests, plus more! *Price per person, based on double occupancy, includes taxes and round trip airfare from Jackson, Memphis, Birmingham and Gulfport/Biloxi.

For information, reservations & brochure call 7 days a week:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626
Providing carefree vacations since 1967!

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

BCV School Supply List

Yearbook Money
\$30 Jr. High
\$50 Sr. High

School Pictures (\$20)

ACT Test Fees (\$28)
Science Fair Boards

Large (TEEN) Backpacks

Poster Board

1" Binders
2" Binders
Dividers w/Tabs
Dividers w/Pockets

JULY 15-31, 2006

HONORS

Gray's Creek BC—Ladies Men Softball
The City Church Softball League
Neil Shirley SSC, Parkway BC
Mrs. Vangie Fields
Mrs. Lucy P. Cournoyer
Dr. Lincol D. Jayroe
Baby Daughter of Roy & Ann Decker
Mr. & Mrs. Perry E. Atherton
Mrs. Cindy Dugas
Mrs. Lillian G. Hayward
Mrs. Peggy Edwards
Mrs. Ray Heard
Mrs. Ben Foster
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey L. Hays
Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Matthew Hard
The Jim Maccaroni Family
Keith Henley
Mrs. Vangie Fields
Mr. & Mrs. Kendall Jackson
Dr. Lincol D. Jayroe
Mrs. Lee Andia Jayroe
Dr. Lincol D. Jayroe
Mrs. Melodie Ligon
Mrs. Lillian G. Hayward
Jim & Tammie Mayo
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny W. Wever
Mrs. Mary Dawn Peoples
Mrs. Lillian G. Hayward
Dr. W. H. Peters
Mrs. Eric C. Peters
Mrs. Anna Rayston
Dr. Lincol D. Jayroe
Mrs. Mary Jo Salmons
Mrs. Ray Heard
Rick & Gay White
Mrs. Vangie Fields
Mrs. Martha Woods
Mrs. Lillian G. Hayward

MEMORIALS

Mr. Denver Alabrie
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion
Mr. Charles I. (C) Allen
Mr. James H. Cannon
Martha Nell Giles Allen
Benton & Marilyn Espey
George & Chris Espey
Ray Anders
Mr. Donald A. Thompson
Francis Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Bill DuBard
Libby Holmes Family
Mr. & Mrs. Floet Lofton & Family
Gary Ballard
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
Mrs. Jean Bass
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Dale Jr.
James "Buddy" Bennett
Faye Bennett
Glen & Jerri Bennett
Greg & Sandra Bennett
John & Angie Haddock
Mrs. Agnes Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. T. J. Tucker
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Tucker
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Tucker
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Zanier
Dorothy Blaylock
Mr. & Mrs. Jack McRee
C. L. & Flora K. Boland
Carl & Donnie Coleman
Alvin Boone
Ms. Sue Germany
Zora Boone
Mrs. Susie B. Minyard
Eva Pearl Bourne
Jim & Pat Callender
Mark Bradley & Girls
Mr. & Mrs. Hale Singletary
Annie Mae Bryant
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Speed
Virgil Burge
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel A. Smith
Ray Carpenter
Mr. Luther Hamilton
Live Oaks Golf Club
Senior Golf Assn
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Richardson
Ms. Pam Gee
Hale & Jean Singletary
Glenn Carter
Glenners SSC, Pilgrim's Rest BC
Icy Faye Clanton
Graeber Brothers, Inc.
Mr. J. C. Cohen, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Pat W. Denton
Mr. Robert Cumba, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Hank A. Robinson Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. James N. Covington
Mr. James Corder
The Jim Maccaroni Family
Mr. Jimmy Cox, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew
Charles Crum
First Baptist Church
Grace Cummings
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Wayne Kilgore
Mrs. Nettie Davis
Dr. & Mrs. Jep S. Brock
Ann Hazzelbine Judson Brooks Deloe
Mr. & Mrs. William H.
Meadows
Mother of Mr. Ralph Diaz
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas Jr.
Mr. John A. Dickerson
Mrs. Jo C. Freeman
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Hubbard
Mrs. Pam Dobbie
Mr. & Mrs. L. B. Weaver
Mrs. Ousta Douglas
Ms. Majie Northway
Purvis Downs
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ervin Jr.
Willie Burnell Doyle
Ms. Jewell Brower & Children
Bill Farnham

Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
Billy Farr
Stuart & Philene Allen
Lanny Fleming
Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh
& Ralph Perkins
Mr. Walter Dede Ford
Mrs. Elizabeth C. Speights
Dorothy Frost
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
James R. Garrett
Mr. & Mrs. Hemtree Brandon
Polly W. Giles
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Coward Jr.
Mr. Charles C. Green
First Baptist Church
Mrs. Carmen Green
Ms. Louise M. Williamson
Frank Gregory
Mr. & Mrs. William Rex Patterson
Rev. Dalton Haggan
Mrs. Allyne Statham
Mary, Martha & Lana
SSC, FBC-Crystal Springs
James Gray Haralson
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Moore
Jack Hardin
Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh
& Ralph Perkins
Turner Hardy
Stuart & Philene Allen
Mrs. Wilma Harrelson
The Joy Makers, FBC-
Booneville
Mrs. Helen Hartfield
Mrs. Agnes E. Pyron
Mr. John L. Hartman
Dr. Lincol D. Jayroe
Carr Haskins
Mr. Kirk Haskins
Donna Haulhee
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
Paul Harrington
Arlington Heights BC
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Eldridge
Dr. Benton Hewitt
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
Mrs. Linda B. Gordon
Gladys Hones
Mrs. Camille C. Hones
Mrs. Sarah Jabour
Dr. Lincol D. Jayroe
Mr. Joe Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Rodis L. Wheeler
Mrs. Ernie Bell Johnson
The Joy Makers, FBC-Booneville
Jeremy Jones
Mrs. Patsy Kendrick
Ann Duke Kahlhaus
Mrs. Carrie S. Evans & Family
Ann Keeton
Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh
& Ralph Perkins
Alvin Kimes
Dave & Amy Ware & Family
Mary Lou King
Mr. Walter R. Barbee
Rev. Eddie Kling
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
Sam Lackey
Mrs. Dorothy L. Peden
Vivian Langley
Betty Ellis
Ann Irwin
Martha Smith
Mr. John D. Latham
Branch Baptist Church
Helen Lawson
Ms. Joyce C. Allen
Sue Epling Lee
Mrs. Penny Merle Gatewood
Terri G. Parker
Mr. O. K. (Kenneth) Magee
Mrs. Elizabeth C. Speights
Ellie Maublin
Good News SSC, FBC-Corinth
Mr. James D. May
Mr. Larry Cotten
Irene Mammie
Ms. Katie K. Holden
Mr. Willard McAllister
Mr. & Mrs. Percy J. Peeler
Mr. Mike McCaleb
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Mrs. A. L. (Archie) McCormick
Mr. & Mrs. Don Perry
Robert McKee
Mrs. Louise Cato & Family
Euel Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Bennett Jr.
Mrs. Billie Burns
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Mrs. Marjorie Odgen
Mrs. Agnes E. Pyron
Mrs. Wayne Pyron
Alton Ogilby
Ms. Audrey L. Hill
Mr. E. B. Oswalt
Mr. & Mrs. Roy D. Hendricks
Duchan Palmer
Mr. H. C. Clearman
J. J. Patterson, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Dolan
Louise Patterson
Dr. & Mrs. Jack McRee
Nolan C. Payne
Mrs. Katharine G. Lackey
Mr. Ray Powell
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff McCendon
Ed Pratt
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crowthair Jr.
Mr. James E. Pratt
Mrs. Frances A. Hart
Audrey Quin
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
Jimmy Rawls
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
Ern Radwine
Temple Baptist Church
Addyan Nicole Reed
Mr. & Mrs. Rice H. Maddox
Pat Reifers

Graeber Brothers, Inc.
Mr. Delire Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel A. Smith
Mrs. Glenda Riley
Lauderdale City Baptist Assoc
Dr. W. H. Reese
Nancy & Jack Regan
Margaret Scott
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Brents Jr.
Carlton Seals
The Robert Sullivans
Roy Shell
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
Mrs. Vivian Simpson
Mrs. Hope P. Wells
Wilton Simpson
Mr. & Mrs. Leighton M. Bond
Ettie Mae Slaco
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
Lottie Smith
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
Mr. Robert "Bob" Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis L. McPhail
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Hathorn
& Family
Mrs. Darlene Sun
Lauderdale City Baptist Assoc
Mack Reah Stallings
Mr. & Mrs. Harmon W. Cox
Mrs. Pat Staples
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Dale Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth E. Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis L. McPhail
Mr. & Mrs. Larry W. Magee
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Speed
Wendell Sterling
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
Willie B. Stewart
Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh
& Ralph Perkins
Iva Nora Silman
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
Parker Stokes
Mrs. Edna M. Gilliland
Prentice Stuart
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Henderson
Dave & Judy Lacy
Dr. Joseph Supple
Dr. & Mrs. Carl Marascalo
Mr. Louis Thumson
Dr. Lincol D. Jayroe
Mrs. Allyne Statham
John Thumson III
Trinity Baptist Church
James L. Tolar
Mr. & Mrs. Gary P. Hollimon
Mrs. Rene Toler
Mr. & Mrs. Rodis L. Wheeler
Annette Traxler
Mike & Susan G. Greer
J. D. Turnage
Anna K. Bell
Ms. Jewell Turnage
Gwen Warren
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Leshe
Marli Watkins
Mike & Jane Barnett
Jon & Becky Hilderbrand
Rodger & Sharlee Reynolds
James & Betty Smith
Paul H. Watson, III
Mrs. Agnes E. Pyron
Mrs. Wayne Pyron
Mrs. Martha P. Kyle
Norene West
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mrs. Edna Mae White
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis L. McPhail
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Dale Jr.
Mrs. Doris B. Cole
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
Ladies of Nine's Beauty Salon
Henry Whitfield
Carl & Donnie Coleman
Lawrence Wiggington
Mrs. Doris B. Cole
Jerry Wilson
Jon & Becky Hilderbrand
Martha Moore
Mack & Martha Robinson
Maurice Robinson
Johnny Page
Thomas Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Hemtree Brandon
Tommy Wise
Ms. Cecelia M. Brister
Mr. W. C. Woods
Lillian, Perry Anne
& Ragan Hayward
Bill & Deena Barbee
James Wooten
Mrs. Doris B. Cole
Mrs. Victor (Vera) Yawn
Mrs. Elizabeth C. Speights

AUGUST 1-13, 2006

HONORS

Mrs. Mary Beck
Mrs. Ray Heard
Trey & Brad Edmondson
Mrs. Joyce W. Edmondson
Mrs. Pattle Estes
Ladies Bible Class, Prentiss BC
Mr. Hayes Graves
Ms. Linda N. Zardiackas
Mrs. Grace Gurtlar
Jerusalem Baptist Church
Dr. Randy Hanks
Chris & Lisa Goolsby
Mr. Owen Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Rhen W. Pierce
Mrs. Barbara McCool
Faith SSC, Emmanuel BC-Grenada
Miss Carmen McDaniels
Jerusalem Baptist Church
Mr. Caleb Pettit
Jerusalem Baptist Church
Rev. & Mrs. R. L. Sigrest
Mr. & Mrs. David Hammons

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Strickland
Dr. Joe Lovelady's SSC,
N Oxford BC

MEMORIALS

Father of Anne Abel
Glenda & Jerry Fry
Jackie Anderson
Mrs. John W. Taylor Jr.
Shelton Allen
Mrs. Opal D. Blakemore
Fred, Shirley & Keith Conner
Mrs. Sally Hefner
Mrs. Myrl McCormick
Dr. & Mrs. Bernard M. Taylor
Mr. Ray Applewhite
Thirteenth Avenue Pharmacy
& Staff
Elaine Johnson Barnett
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Burnell Beeson
Glenda Davis Barlow
Steve Biggers
Mrs. Mary E. Sanford
Betty Blackledge
Stanton Baptist Church
Mr. Michael Blackwell
First Baptist Church
Mrs. Dorothy Blacklock
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Pilgrim
Eddie Boatwright
Dr. & Mrs. Henry Rather
K. C. Braton
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Ralph Buckley
Dr. & Mrs. Rory Lee
Dorothy Bulhard
Hopewell Baptist Church
Shelby Bullock
Ms. Lois Johnson
Ms. Evelyn Landrum
Mrs. Dorothy L. Walley
Dr. Bill D. Burks
Mrs. Rebecca W. Norsworthy
Thornton Burns
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. W. H. Burrill
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen
D. B. Byrd
Mrs. Patsy F. Byrd
Hon. Nattie P. Caraway
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. King
Mr. Ray Carpenter
Wicks & Way SSC,
Morrison Hgts BC
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Case
Cy & Kathy Vance
Joe Carter
Mrs. J. T. Morrison
Rebecca Carter
Mr. & Mrs. L. C. White
Troy Carver
Mr. Arias Swindoll
Annette Clanton
Pleasant Grove BC
Mrs. Edna R. Colar
Carl & Margaret Berry
Mrs. Clara Comer
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Stevenson
Darnell Dahlem
Ms. Nelda M. Pickle
Troy Davis, Jr.
Mrs. Genola Davis Barlow
Eric Davis
Mrs. Genola Davis Barlow
Mary Alice Denman
Donald Boswell Family
Maurice J. Boswell
Joseph Lannon Family
Madelyn Lee Dick
Elois Hunter SSC, FBC-McComb
Ron Dickey
Graeber Brothers, Inc.
Mrs. Pam Dobbie
Theresa & Ralph Skinner
Bill Dodson
Mrs. June D. Shepard
Mrs. Joyce Dotson
Dr. & Mrs. Prentiss G. Cox
Mrs. Dot Eilley
Tinley Baptist Church
Mr. Howard England
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Sue Farris
Dr. & Mrs. Henry Rather
Mr. Phillip Farris
Mrs. Hazel M. Poe
Mrs. Isabelle Fontenot
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Draughn
Gilbert Fulcher
Todd & Bobbie Horn
Gerald Gaddie
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Henderson
Bobby Gill
Ray & Linda Campbell
Charles C. Givens
"The Leathers" SSC, FBC-McLain
Mrs. Lillian Woods
Milton Haden
Mrs. Doris N. McMurchy
Rev. Dalton Haggan
Mr. & Mrs. Ragan Walters
Rev. Josiah Floyd Hagwood
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Neal
William (Billy) Hamberry
Ms. LaDell Graham
Ms. Phyllis Harris
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew
Robert "Bobby" Harrison
Dr. & Mrs. Bill Thompson
Mrs. Hyacinth Hayman
Mrs. Charles F. Wadsworth
Mr. Paul Harrington
Sr Adult Ladies SSC-
Arlington Hgts BC
Dr. Benton Hewitt
Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton
Mrs. Barbara Ann Hilderbrand
Ms. Jamie H. Bray
Sue Barrett
Ms. Lucile Covington

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Jenkins
Mrs. Billy Ray Smith
Mrs. Theron F. Hobbs
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby R. Price
Mr. Bill Horn
Ms. Linda N. Zardiackas
Carl E. Howard, II
Mr. & Mrs. Carl E. Howard
Betty Housh
Kolola Springs Baptist Church
Mrs. Agnes Hutton
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Ms. Jeannette Johnson
FBC Nicholson
Windle Johnson
Johnson Hunting Club
Mr. Dan Jones
Thirteenth Avenue Pharmacy
& Staff
Mrs. Ann Kahlhaus
Mr. & Mrs. Rhen W. Pierce
Mrs. Sue Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Fortinberry
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Parker
Mrs. Joyce Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Skeet Sanders
Robert Lee Mahan
Jane Beck
Melinde Jahsman
Sonny, Susan, Scott
& Jon Meridith
Missy & Dell Ramer
Mrs. Udell Malone
Dr. & Mrs. London E. Brown
Mr. Garth Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen
Mrs. Vancille Williams Manney
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene L. Colpepper
Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Fortinberry
Albritton Family
Albritton's Employees
Mr. & Mrs. Chance B. Carter
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Marler
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Walsh
Mr. & Mrs. Will N. Price
Ms. Joyce R. Pinnix
Mr. Willard McAllister
Silom Baptist Church
Amanda McCoy
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Roseberry
Michael McKee
Mrs. Betty Hall
Ola M. Mender
Ralph, Mildred & Nancy Gardner
Laverne, Sister of Lon Mihal
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges
Mrs. Ruby Allen Miles
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mrs. Bernice Lee Monk
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby R. Price
Mrs. Mattie Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Jewell
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Pace
Ernest R. (Buddy) Myrick
Mr. & Mrs. T. Roscoe Heuron Jr.
Alton Ogilby
Maurice & Reecy Whitehead
Mrs. Jemima Parkman
Ms. Karen M. Johnson
Miss Alberta Peden
Mr. & Mrs. Lois M. Knight
Mr. Wayman Peden
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse R. Johnson
O. E. Purry
Dr. & Mrs. Rory Lee
Mrs. Opal Pilgrim
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Pilgrim
Doris Nell C. Pittman
Nelson H. Craft
Pat Duckworth
Mrs. Frances Plunk
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Hays
Mr. Rat Powell
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Weaver
Helen Rawls
Grace McBride WMU Cir-
New Prospect BC
Mrs. Brenda Rawson
Dr. & Mrs. John K. Perry Sr.
Arden Rhodes
Ms. Nelda M. Pickle
Mrs. Glenda Riley
Mr. & Mrs. George M Eagle
& Family
Mr. & Mrs. Rhen W. Pierce
James Dale Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Gremi
Trent Rodgers
Agape SSC, Bovina BC-V'burg
Robert Rutledge
Mr. & Mrs. S. S. Crocker
Mrs. Grace Sals
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Bruton
Dr. & Mrs. John K. Perry Sr.
Nellie Grace Sauer
Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton
Ms. Ruthie Sellers
Ms. Birtie M. Kennedy
Doris Smith
Dr. & Mrs. Henry Rather
Mr. Warren Hewitt Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hathorn
Libby Holmes Family
Mr. & Mrs. Luther Roy Adams
Mrs. Pat Staples
Ms. Lois B. Livingston
Ms. Louise B. Luper
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Polk
Joyce Stagnan
Ms. Yvonne W. Gable
Iva Nora Silman
Ray & Linda Campbell
Gwyneth Stahan
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark
Glenda & Jerry Fry
Mrs. Dora Murray
Dr. & Mrs. Gene Warren
Mrs. Teta Haskins
Mr. Parker Stokes
Mr. & Mrs. Matt L. Taylor
Mr. Milton Stone
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Parker

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Making a Difference in the World

Matt. 5:13-16, 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1

By Les Colvin

In his book, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, Dale Carnegie describes several methods of making an impact on others. He gives ways to make people like you, and how to win people to your way of thinking. Carnegie's book has been a best seller for years and used by countless business people to increase their leadership skills and influence. We all want to be people of influence and in reality, we "are." Everyone has influence. It may not be intentional and it may not be positive, but we have influence. God has also given believers a command to be an influence and to make a difference in our world.

In 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1 we are to separate ourselves from the

world. Verses 14-15, give the reasoning. As believers, we have nothing in common with the people of the world. Verse 14 has most often been used in dealing with marriage, and certainly applies to that relationship. However, Paul is also dealing with our overall lifestyle and warning us not to get entangled with the people and ways of the world. In verses 16 and 18, Paul describes the "relationship" we have with God as the basis for separating ourselves. We are God's people; His children, and He is our God and Father. Verse 16 says we are the "sanctuary" of the living God. We are God's dwelling place. As He abides in us, He calls us into this special relationship in which we are set apart. In verses 17 and 7:1 Paul

gives the "requirement" for us as His children. The quality of our relationship with God is dependent upon our separation from the world. Verse 17 says when we separate and abstain from anything unclean "then" He will welcome us. In 7:1, our sanctification is made

Colvin

complete by washing ourselves clean from every impurity. As believers, contamination with the world hinders our walk with God. It is only through separation from the world and repenting of sin that we can have a right relationship with God.

In 1 Cor. 1:26-31 we are challenged to let God use us. Paul first describes whom he uses. Notice the characteristics of God's people. God uses the foolish, weak, and insignificant. It is interesting that all through Scripture, God used people that were at the bottom of the list in terms of influence. In Judges 7:15, God chose Gideon, the least in his father's house. In 1

Sam. 17, God used David, a young shepherd boy to slay Goliath. Verses 28-29 tell us why God chooses the weak. It is so no one can boast or glory in His presence. When God uses weak and despised people, He will receive the glory from their obedience and service. In verse 30, Paul describes how God uses us. It is through Christ Jesus. It is in Christ that we have wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

Finally, in Matt. 5:13-16, God calls us to be salt and light in the world. In this passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives us our "job description." He tells us that we are to be people of influence. If we are going to live the life He created and saved us to live, we will function as salt and light. He first describes us as salt. The characteristics of salt among others are that it preserves life, adds flavor, and creates a thirst. All of these ought to also be that of every believer in respect to our relationship with the world.

As we touch on just a couple

of these, God expects through us, to bring flavor, purpose and meaning in life to a world without these things. He also wants us to create a thirst for people to know God, drawing them to Him. God also calls us to be light. Light provides direction and shows the way. In order for light to be light, it must be visible. It must shine. Jesus expects His followers to shine. As our lights shine, we reflect His light shining through us.

We live in a day where truth has been relegated to the place of personal preference. The new age philosophy, with its belief that man is the center of his own universe has crept into our entire society. God expects us to be people of influence, who make a difference, simply by being who He saved us to be. We may not always "win friends," but we can influence our world as we obey God's Word and live in fellowship with Him.

Colvin is Minister of Education/Administration at First Church, McComb.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

What's the Bottom Line?

Ecc. 11:9-10; 12:1-5; 13-14

By Ginger M. Caughman

What prayer never fails? Popular novelist Jan Karon's main character often prays what she calls, "the prayer that never fails." As you consider that question, ponder the topic. What's "the bottom line" in your life?

Do you keep a journal noting spiritual markers or life highlights? I do and enjoy reading past accounts. Some details would be forgotten if not for my journal.

Thus I especially liked the explanations of Omar C. Garcia calling Ecclesiastes "the candid journal" of Solomon. That's helpful in understanding the book. God gave Solomon the gift of wisdom but then with his riches Solomon explored all of life's pleasures concluding they did not satisfy! In this lesson Solomon continues his theme of vanity but finishes the book

with GOD. "Solomon's conclusion is that life's ultimate meaning is not found under the sun where everything is futile, but above or beyond the sun in God" (Garcia).

Recognize God-given Boundaries

Although these words are directed to youth (11:9-10; 12:1), they have application to men and women of all ages. God wants all people to enjoy life within the limits He has revealed.

Remember GOD Every Day

None of us knows when we will leave this earth and enter our heavenly home (12:5-6) thus we are to live each day according to God's will and with an awareness of God's presence.

Our church was shocked and indeed our entire community saddened by the sudden death of a young dear friend,



Caughman

Laurie Williamson. At her funeral, five months ago, moving tributes to her Christian faith were heard from her daughter-in-law and niece. In our church Laurie taught a Class of Senior Ladies on Sunday morning and worked with youth on Sunday night.

A month before her death, Laurie and her niece had exchanged several E-mails about the meaning of their Christian faith. By the magic of Electronic-mail her niece Jenny sent Laurie's words to the Senior ladies the Sunday after the funeral. God's comfort came from His presence, Isaiah's lesson, and from Laurie's words:

"I will pray that God will lead us both to truth and a deeper relationship with Him."

Revere and Obey God!

What is the prayer that never fails? When I asked my husband the question, he knew immediately and quoted our Lord's prayer in the Garden.

In Jan Karon's Mitford nov-

els, the Episcopal minister, (who has Mississippi roots), Timothy Kavanagh and his wife Cynthia often pray the prayer that never fails. Later chapters reveal that prayer as the words of Jesus, "Thy will be done!"

Billy Graham has written: "The prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane is perhaps the greatest, most moving prayer ever uttered. Our Lord asked that the cup of crucifixion be taken away. But in the very next breath He said, 'Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.'" (Matt. 26:39; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42).

Like Jesus, the apostle Paul submitted to God's will and discovered that God's grace is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9). As we conclude these two units on the difficult experiences of life, heed these words: "Christ desires to be with you in whatever crisis you may find yourself. Call on His name and He will give you the power to deal with your problems and to overcome them by His grace." (Billy Graham, *Hope for Each Day*).

We've shared three months together. I've been blessed both by the prayers of many I've yet

to meet and always by an in-depth study of God's Word. Besides encouraging you to daily read the Holy Bible, I hope I've sent you to your church and public library to read more inspiring words of Elisabeth Elliott, Vance Havner, and others. I hope some of the older books have not been discarded but are sitting on the shelf waiting for you to check them out. Thanks to librarians Sherry McCall and Frances Easterling for their help.

In conclusion, our title asks, "What's The Bottom Line?" What's life all about? God! We are ultimately accountable to God. From our youth throughout life we are to revere and obey the Lord God. The end of the book answers the purpose for which God created us.

"Now all has been heard, here is the conclusion of the matter. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil."

Caughman is a member of First Church, Magee.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Middle East: Latest conflict mired in complex history

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — While it's an oversimplification to say the strife in the Middle East at its core is just bad blood between brothers, some people believe there is biblical justification for that position. They're referring to Abraham's two sons by two mothers: Ishmael, the firstborn to handmaiden Hagar, and Isaac, born in God's timing to 100-year-old Sarah.

Islamic studies professor Samuel Shahid, however, sees the biblical justification theory as flawed, cautioning that it plays to Islamic interests. "Muslims insist that all Arabs are the descendants of Ishmael in order to give legitimacy to Muhammad as a descendant of the prophet," said Shahid, a Palestinian educated in Lebanon who teaches at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. "Arabs actually belong to many different branches."

All Arabs could not have come from Ishmael, Shahid said; because after Sarah died, Abraham married an Arab woman named Keturah. "Where did she come from, if Ishmael were the first Arab?" Shahid asked.

R. Dennis Cole, professor of Old Testament and archaeology at New Orleans Seminary, concurred. "The current designation 'Arabs' is itself multifaceted, including many groups which have no Semitic ancestry," Cole said. "It includes many whose native tongue today is Arabic, but whose ancestry may be Indo-European, African, Arabian (as

in from the Arabian peninsula), and many others."

A look at the past provides a roadmap of events leading to the current war raging between Israel and Hézbollah, who are Lebanese Shiites said to be undergirded by Persian Iran, and between Israel and Hamas, who are Palestinian. Both groups call for the eradication of Israel.

Early history

Some people in discussing the current crisis between Israel and Hezbollah to the north and Hamas in the south point to the Roman destruction of Israel by Hadrian less than 150 years after the birth of Jesus. That's when the Romans, to obliterate any connection Jews might have felt to the area, renamed Canaan with a Latin name — Syria Palestina — which corresponded with the Hebraic word rendered "Philistine."

Tiglath-Pileser III of Assyria by 732 B.C. had conquered the Philistines, and all traces of them "as a people or ethnic group" disappeared by the time of Alexander's conquest of the land in 332 B.C., Cole said. He said he sees no genealogical connection between ancient Philistines and modern-day Palestinians.

The Roman Emperor Hadrian, from 132-135 A.D., quashed a major Jewish uprising, banned Jews from living in Jerusalem and dispersed most remaining Judean Jews throughout the Roman Empire, Cole said.

Arab conquests took Palestine from the Roman Empire in the seventh century,

An Israeli Arab women and her child cry out in terror as they endure yet another Hezbollah missile strike on July 19 in Haifa, Israel. Hezbollah, a radical Islamist group supported by Iran and Syria, has rained down thousands of unguided missiles on Israeli civilian population centers from positions across the border in Lebanon. (BP photo courtesy of Uriel Sinai/Getty Images)

Shahid said, and for the following 850 years, the biblical "Land of Canaan" known as Palestine was occupied by various Arab peoples before becoming part of the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire in 1517.

By the early 1800s, Jews, the largest non-Christian group in Europe, were targets for ridicule and discrimination, just as people often are by those who fear anyone "different." The concept of a homeland for Jews in Palestine was mentioned as early as 1840, Shahid said.

World War I

The Ottoman Empire was defeated in World War I with the help of Arabs inspired by "Lawrence of Arabia," a British intelligence officer. As part of the Treaty of Versailles, in 1919 the British Empire was given control of "Palestine," an area that stretched from the Mediterranean Sea to Iraq. That same year, Britain approved the Balfour Declaration, which appeared to favor the establishment in Palestine of a homeland for Jews, said Nancy Duke, associate professor of history at Louisiana College.

Three years later, the newly formed League of Nations gave Britain a "Palestinian Mandate," which included "the establishment of the Jewish national home" and "safeguarding the civil and religious rights of all the inhabitants of Palestine," according to Article 2 of the mandate.

Three months after the signing of the Palestinian Mandate, Britain separated what today is known as Jordan; it then was known as the Transjordan because it was on the other side of the Jordan River from the rest of Palestine. That separation limited Jewish expansion

in Transjordan, which resulted in its intensifying in what today is known as Israel, Duke said.

Resentment grows

The Great [Arab] Uprising of 1936-39 was essentially a revolt triggered by increased Jewish immigration stemming from European anti-Semitism. The British response included the MacDonald White Paper of 1939, which appeared to many people to rescind the Balfour Declaration. The White Paper indicated that since more than 450,000 Jews were at that time already living in Palestine, the "homeland for Jews" aims of the Balfour Declaration had been met.

World War II

Then came World War II. In its aftermath, 250,000 Jews were stranded in displaced persons camps in Europe, unable to get into Palestine because of British-imposed immigration quotas, set to appease Arabs. Leon Uris' best-selling book "Exodus" and an Otto Preminger movie of the same name describe that tumultuous time.

"The British continued the immigration ban because they considered it more important to support Arab interests, because of British interests in Egypt and other Arab lands, and especially to guarantee the friendship of oil-rich Saudi Arabia," Duke said.

British depart

The Jewish underground militia, which had been growing in strength since the late 1930s, began terrorizing the British, including bombing British headquarters at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem in 1946.

"Seeing that the situation was quickly spiraling out of

hand, the British announced their desire to terminate their mandate," Duke said. They were gone by May 1948.

"The Jews seized the opportunity and declared their independence as a state," Shahid said. "The Arab League fought them, and lost, and the borders were redefined."

Conflict continues

Political tensions between Israel and her neighbors erupted as armed combat in 1967. That's when Egypt expelled United Nations forces from the Gaza Strip and closed the strategic Straits of Tiran to Israeli vessels. Israel attacked on June 5, 1967. Six days later, "the Jewish state emerged victorious," Shahid said. "Israel had defeated the armies of three large Arab states and decimated their air forces. Territorially, Israel conquered the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Sinai Peninsula and Golan Heights."

Egypt's foiled attack on Yom Kippur six years later, in 1973, was a blip on an otherwise relatively calm 15-year period, except for near-continual resentment-fueled skirmishes between Israel and her Arab neighbors.

Latest war

Most recently, a seemingly unending series of Hezbollah-driven rocket attacks into northern Israel erupted into retaliatory action July 12, after eight Israeli soldiers were killed and two soldiers kidnapped, according to multiple news sources. Israel went on the offensive, and the latest conflict erupted into the present violent situation.

Karen Willoughby, managing editor of the Louisiana Baptist Message, is the author of this article.

ANNOUNCEMENT

How Great Is Our God

Join us for a special service on Sunday, September 10, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Dallas. The service will feature a special presentation of the hymn "How Great Is Our God" by the First Baptist Church of Dallas. The service will be held at the First Baptist Church of Dallas, 1000 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202. For more information, please call 214-761-1234 or visit our website at www.katrinarecovery.com.